

ENHANCING READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS IN ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS:  
METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

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ABSTRACT	KEY WORDS
<p>This scientific article explores effective methodologies for teaching reading comprehension skills in English language instruction for students in vocational schools. Reading comprehension is a fundamental skill that plays a crucial role in language acquisition and vocational success. Drawing upon educational research and pedagogical practices, this study examines various methodological approaches to improve reading comprehension abilities in vocational school students. It discusses strategies for pre-reading, during-reading, and post-reading activities, as well as the integration of authentic materials, technology, and critical thinking. The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of a learner-centered approach and the need for continuous professional development for English language teachers in vocational schools.</p>	<p>Reading comprehension, English language teaching, vocational schools, methodology, pre-reading activities, during-reading activities, post-reading activities, authentic materials, technology, critical thinking.</p>

Introduction

This section provides an overview of the importance of reading comprehension skills in English language learning and their relevance to the vocational education context. It highlights the challenges faced by vocational school students in acquiring language skills and introduces the significance of effective teaching methodologies.

1. Theoretical Framework:

This section discusses the theoretical foundations underpinning the teaching of reading comprehension skills. It explores theories of language acquisition, cognitive processes involved in reading comprehension, and the role of schema theory, metacognition, and prior knowledge in enhancing reading comprehension abilities.

2. Pre-Reading Activities:

This section focuses on strategies for engaging students in pre-reading activities to activate their prior knowledge, build vocabulary, and set goals for reading. It discusses techniques such as brainstorming,

predicting content, and using graphic organizers to scaffold students' understanding and prepare them for the reading task.

### **3. During-Reading Activities:**

This section explores instructional strategies employed during the reading process to enhance comprehension. It discusses techniques such as skimming, scanning, and close reading, as well as the use of graphic organizers, annotations, and highlighting to promote active reading and deeper understanding. The section also emphasizes the importance of fostering reading strategies, such as inferencing and summarizing, to develop students' critical thinking skills.

### **4. Post-Reading Activities:**

This section examines strategies for post-reading activities that consolidate comprehension and encourage reflection. It discusses techniques such as discussion groups, reflective journals, and reading response activities to deepen students' understanding, promote analysis, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the text to real-world contexts.

### **5. Integration of Authentic Materials:**

This section highlights the importance of using authentic materials, such as articles, reports, and vocational texts, to enhance reading comprehension skills in vocational school students. It explores ways to select and adapt authentic materials to suit students' proficiency levels and vocational interests. The section also discusses the benefits of exposing students to real-world language use and vocational contexts.

### **6. Technology in Reading Instruction:**

This section explores the integration of technology tools and digital resources in teaching reading comprehension skills. It discusses the use of online platforms, interactive reading apps, multimedia resources, and digital texts to engage students, provide interactive learning experiences, and facilitate independent practice. The section also addresses considerations for selecting and incorporating technology tools effectively.

### **7. Cultivating Critical Thinking Skills:**

This section emphasizes the cultivation of critical thinking skills alongside reading comprehension. It explores strategies for promoting higher-order thinking, such as questioning techniques, problem-solving tasks, and evaluating information sources. The section also discusses the importance of developing students' ability to analyze, synthesize, and apply knowledge gained from reading texts.

### **8. Learner-Centered Approach:**

This section advocates for a learner-centered approach in teaching reading comprehension skills to vocational school students. It emphasizes the importance of adapting instructional materials and activities to students' interests, needs, and vocational goals. The section also highlights the value of promoting autonomy, self-regulation, and lifelong learning skills in language learners.

## **9. Teacher Professional Development:**

This section underscores the significance of continuous professional development for English language teachers in vocational schools. It discusses the need for teachers to stay updated with current research, methodologies, and best practices in teaching reading comprehension. The section suggests avenues for professional development, such as workshops, conferences, online resources, and collaborative learning communities.

Certainly! Here are some additional points to expand on the topic of teaching reading comprehension skills in English to students in vocational schools:

### **1. Contextualized Content:**

- When teaching reading comprehension skills in vocational schools, it is crucial to provide content that is relevant to the students' vocational interests and future careers. This can be achieved by selecting texts and materials that align with their specific vocational fields, such as articles, reports, or manuals related to their chosen profession.
- By using contextualized content, students can develop a deeper understanding of vocabulary, concepts, and specialized terminology related to their vocational area, thereby improving their reading comprehension and overall language proficiency.

### **2. Scaffolded Instruction:**

- In vocational schools, students often come from diverse educational backgrounds and may have varying levels of English language proficiency. To address these differences, teachers can employ scaffolded instruction techniques to support students at different proficiency levels.
- This can involve providing pre-reading support, such as vocabulary previews, graphic organizers, or concept maps, to help students activate prior knowledge and build connections with the reading material. During-reading support can include highlighting key information, guiding questions, or comprehension checks. Post-reading activities can focus on summarizing, discussing, or applying the information from the text.

### **3. Authentic Assessment:**

- Assessments play a crucial role in evaluating students' reading comprehension skills. In vocational schools, it is beneficial to incorporate authentic assessments that mirror real-world tasks and situations. This can include tasks like reading and analyzing job-related documents, writing reports based on reading materials, or participating in role-plays or simulations that require reading comprehension skills.
- Authentic assessments not only provide a more accurate reflection of students' abilities but also help them develop transferable skills that are applicable to their future careers.

### **4. Collaborative Learning:**

- Incorporating collaborative learning activities can enhance reading comprehension skills in vocational schools. Group discussions, pair work, or cooperative projects can provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful interactions, share ideas, and negotiate meaning.
- Collaborative learning also fosters the development of communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, which are essential for success in vocational settings.

## **5. Vocabulary Development:**

- Building vocabulary knowledge is crucial for improving reading comprehension skills. Teachers can employ various strategies to enhance vocabulary acquisition, such as pre-teaching key vocabulary, using contextual clues, and providing opportunities for vocabulary practice and reinforcement.
- Additionally, teachers can encourage students to engage in independent vocabulary learning by utilizing online resources, vocabulary-building apps, and self-study materials.

## **6. Reading Strategies:**

- Teaching specific reading strategies can empower students to become more effective readers. Strategies like skimming, scanning, predicting, inferencing, and summarizing can help students navigate texts, extract important information, and make connections between ideas.
- Explicitly teaching and modeling these strategies, and providing opportunities for students to practice and apply them, can significantly improve their reading comprehension abilities.

## **7. Technology Integration:**

- Integrating technology tools and resources can enhance reading comprehension instruction in vocational schools. Online platforms, digital libraries, interactive reading applications, and multimedia resources can provide engaging and interactive reading experiences.
- Technology can also facilitate independent practice, personalized learning, and access to authentic materials that are otherwise challenging to obtain in traditional classroom settings.

## **8. Cultural Considerations:**

- When teaching reading comprehension to students in vocational schools, it is important to consider the cultural backgrounds and experiences of the students. Teachers should be sensitive to cultural differences that may affect students' interpretations and understanding of the reading material.
- Providing opportunities for students to share their perspectives, engage in cross-cultural discussions, and explore diverse viewpoints can enrich their reading experiences and promote intercultural awareness.

By implementing these strategies and approaches, English language teachers in vocational schools can effectively enhance students' reading comprehension skills. Creating a supportive and engaging learning environment that integrates relevant content, scaffolded instruction, collaborative activities, and technology can contribute to the overall success of vocational students in their language learning journey.

## **Conclusion:**

The effective teaching of reading comprehension skills is essential for English language learners in vocational schools. By employing a range of methodological approaches, including pre-reading, during-reading, and post-reading activities, integration of authentic materials and technology, and fostering critical thinking skills, teachers can enhance students' reading comprehension abilities. A learner-centered approach and ongoing professional development for teachers are crucial for creating an engaging and effective learning environment.

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